

Eric,

I attempted to find direction on the SWRCB's website for the appropriate channel to provide comment on the Emergency Water Conservation Regulations and was not successful so I thought I would start with you.

Briefly Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) is one of the 135 water agencies on which the 35% reduction has been imposed. We are a desert community completely dependent on groundwater and considered a medium priority basin. IWWVD has approximately 12,000 residential and commercial connections. Humidity is extremely low and temperatures extremely high (110 is not uncommon) during the summer months. Evaporative cooling is the most efficient method for residential cooling and each cooler can use as much as 22,000 plus gallons during the summer season (based on a study by the University of Arizona). Summer afternoons are also typically windy which, along with the heat, contributes to the harsh conditions for maintaining landscaping. Our district has already achieved the 20% by 2020 reduction Governor Schwarzenegger and this new mandate to reduce an additional 35% translates into a reduction from 9198.5 acre-feet in 2007 to about 4,896 acre-feet in 2015. While it is a fact our district can achieve even more through conservation, this additional 35% reduction is an extreme burden being placed on our customers while we have an alfalfa farm reporting 7,524 acre-feet of pumping and a new pistachio farmer that over the past two years has planted 1,600 acres that will consume about 6,400 acre-feet (collectively twice as much as IWWVD pumped for our entire customer base last year). It seems unreasonable that 30,000 residents are being asked to reduce their usage almost 50% over the past 8 years while two farmers raising nuts and hay share none of the pain.

I would appreciate the State Water Board considering my comments.

Regards,  
Don

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